

## Message Text

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PAGE 01    WARSAW 02453 080749Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /030 W  
-----082039Z 117854 /44

R 080635Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7498  
INFO AMCONSUL KRAKOW  
AMCONSUL POZNAN  
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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EO 11652N/A  
TAGS: EGEN EAGR PL  
SUBJ: FOOD SUPPLIES ON THE EVE OF EASTER

REF: WARSAW 931

1. THE AUTHORITIES ARE EVIDENTLY DOING THEIR UTMOST TO MAKE THIS A HAPPY--AND PEACEFUL--EASTER HOLIDAY FOR THE POLES. LARGE SHIPMENTS OF CITRUS FRUITS FROM SPAIN AND CYPRUS HAVE APPEARED ON THE MARKET. MANY POLES HAVE COMMENTED THAT THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF ORANGES AND GRAPEFRUIT. FANCY FOODS, CANDIES, IMPORTED WINES, AND OTHER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALSO PLENTIFUL, AS ARE MOST VEGETABLES. QUEUES FOR MEAT OF ALL KINDS ARE, HOWEVER, UNUSUALLY LONG, EVEN FOR POLAND. IN WARSAW, MEAT LINES ARE LONGER THAN AT CHRISTMAS AND MUCH LONGER THAN BEFORE THE EASTER HOLIDAYS LAST YEAR.

2. QUEUES AT SOME MEAT OUTLETS IN WARSAW HAVE WELL OVER ONE HUNDRED PEOPLE. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE NOTED THAT MANY CONSUMERS WERE BUYING AS MUCH MEAT AS PERMITTED AND THEN REENTERING THE QUEUE TO PURCHASE MORE. STOPS  
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VISITED IN WARSAW HAVE RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNTS OF FRESH PORK AND BEEF, BUT SUPPLIES OF PROCESSED MEATS AND SAUSAGES SEEMED ADEQUATE. QUANTITIES OF POULTRY ON THE MARKET ARE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO MEET CURRENT DEMAND. EXPORT-PACKED GESE, DUCKS, AND TURKEYS PRODUCED IN POLAND ARE BEING SOLD IN MANY OF THE LARGER SUPERMARKETS.

3. SPOT REPORTS FROM THE CONSULATES IN POZNAN AND KRAKOW INDICATE THAT THE SITUATION IN THOSE CITIES IS SIMILAR. AS USUAL, KRAKOW SEEMS TO BE LESS WELL SUPPLIED THAN OTHER MAJOR URBAN CENTERS, ALTHOUGH CONSULATE OFFICERS REPORT THERE ARE LARGE AMOUNTS OF CITRUS FRUITS AVAILABLE, AND, APART FROM MEAT, STOCKS OF MOST BASIC COMMODITIES ARE ADEQUATE. POZNAN'S MEAT SITUATION IS REPORTED TO BE BETTER THAN IN RECENT WEEKS, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE SUPPLIES WERE HELD OFF THE MARKET FOR THE HOLIDAY CRUSH. HAM APPARENTLY IS NOT BEING SOLD IN ANY OF THE AREAS VISITED. THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS IN WARSAW THAT SOME HAM WAS PLACED ON THE MARKET, BUT WAS WITHDRAWN WHEN CONSUMERS COMPLAINED THAT IT WAS SPOILED.

4. THE QUEUES OBSERVED HAVE BEEN DISCIPLINED AND THE ATTITUDE OF THOSE WAITING ONE OF QUIET RESIGNATION. THERE ARE MORE POLICE STATIONED NEAR MEAT SHOPS THAN USUAL.

5. COMMENT: THE LEADERSHIP HAS CLEARLY GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO ENSURE THAT SUPPLIES WOULD BE AT THEIR BEST BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS. SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF MEAT WERE EVIDENTLY HELD OFF THE MARKET UNTIL THIS WEEK, AND THE EXPECTATION THAT MORE MEAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE HAS ENCOURAGED CONSUMERS TO QUEUE UP. AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT BEFORE, QUEUES IN POLAND DO NOT HAVE THE SAME NEGATIVE CONNOTATION THAT THEY HAVE IN THE WEST.. HERE, THEY ARE OFTEN INTERPRETED BY THE MAN ON THE STREET AS A SIGN THAT SOMETHING IS ONCE AGAIN AVAILABLE. ALTHOUGH MEAT SUPPLIES ARE THIN, WE THINK THE HOLIDAYS WILL BE WEATHERED

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WITHOUT MISHAP. END COMMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** FOOD SUPPLIES ON THE EVE OF EASTER  
**TAGS:** EGEN, EAGR, PL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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